



Boston City Council

Committee on Environment and Health

John Connolly, *Chair*

November 16, 2010

Dear Councillors:

The Committee on Environment and Health held a hearing to discuss Docket #1538, message and order to accept the provisions of Appendix 120.AA of the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards also known as the Stretch Energy Code, for the City of Boston. This matter was sponsored by Mayor Menino, referred to this Committee on Wednesday, November 3rd, 2010 and a public hearing was held on November 12th at which public comment was taken. Mayor Menino sponsored this action, in part, at the recommendation of his Climate Action Leadership Committee and Community Advisory Committee in their April 2010 report, "Sparkling Boston's Climate Revolution."

Appendix 120.AA of the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations Standards is an optional appendix to the Massachusetts building energy code that enables cities and towns to choose a more energy efficient option. The option increases the efficiency requirements for all new residential and many new commercial buildings, as well as for those residential additions and renovations that would normally trigger building code requirements. These changes would result in approximately 20% better energy efficiency. At the hearing, the administration and a representative from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources testified that the City of Boston will benefit greatly from adoption of the Stretch Code and local residents and businesses will recognize significant cost savings. Adoption of this code fulfills one requirement of the State's Green Communities Program and will make the City of Boston eligible to receive Green Communities grants, which can total up to \$1 million in grants.


The Committee heard testimony in favor and against adoption of the provision. Those testifying in favor included testimony from the Boston Society of Architects, Boston Properties, Global Investments, Boston Climate Action Network, Urban Edge, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Alternatives for Community & Environment, Digital Lumens, The Green Round Table, and Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance. A representative from Greater Boston Real Estate Board testified against adoption of the appendix and NAIOP Massachusetts submitted written testimony against adoption of the provision. Winn Development submitted written testimony in favor of adoption of the code.

Adoption of this provision requires "local acceptance," which under the City of Boston "Plan A" Form of government, requires approval from the City Council and the Mayor.

The Committee on Environment and Health, to which the following was referred:

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recommends, based on the information presented at the hearing and public comment gathered by the Committee, that this matter ought to pass.

For the Chair,

John Connolly, *Chair*
Committee on Environment and Health